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SACRAMENTO WOMAN SENTENCED FOR
ATTEMPTING TO STEAL HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER MONEY
VIA FALSE CLAIMS UPON THE UNITED STATES

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that NAISHA C. DAVIS, 25, of Sacramento, California was sentenced today by Chief United States District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. for two felony convictions of falsely claiming disaster assistance as a Hurricane Katrina victim.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud, and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force-chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division-includes the FBI, the United States Inspectors General community, the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, and others.

This case was specifically investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, following the August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster, on September 13, 2005, NAISHA DAVIS falsely claimed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana during the disaster. However, in fact, prior to the disaster and continuously thereafter, NAISHA DAVIS was enrolled as a full-time student at a college in Sacramento. Hurricane Katrina Task Force investigators additionally uncovered California state welfare records indicating that NAISHA DAVIS received cash aid since 2004 from several California state assistance programs as a California state resident.

Chief Judge Burrell sentenced DAVIS to 36 months probation, 50 hours of community service, and ordered her to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,536.50 to the American Red Cross.

NAISHA DAVIS' Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance fraud case is related to two other Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance fraud cases. According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who also prosecuted those cases, on April 13, 2007, NAISHA DAVIS'

mother, TRUDY M. DAVIS, 44, of Sacramento, California was convicted of three felony offenses related to claims for disaster assistance arising out of Hurricane Katrina, namely two counts of making false claims to FEMA and one count of theft of United States property. TRUDY DAVIS stole \$5,338 of funds allocated for disaster relief victims. On July 27, 2007, Chief Judge Burrell sentenced TRUDY DAVIS to a four month federal prison term, and ordered her to pay full restitution and a \$300 special assessment fee. After completion of her jail sentence, TRUDY DAVIS will be on federal supervised release for 36 months.

Further, on April 13, 2007, the father of NAISHA DAVIS' child, LAWRENCE H. WILLIAMS, 25, of Sacramento, California was convicted of two counts of making false claims to FEMA, two counts of theft of U.S. property, and one count of making a false statement to FEMA for emergency disaster aid. WILLIAMS also was convicted of lying to special agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General about his false demand upon FEMA for emergency disaster money. WILLIAMS stole \$7,568.76 of funds allocated for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief victims. On July 27, 2007, WILLIAMS, who has a criminal history for drug trafficking, was similarly sentenced to four months in federal custody. He was also ordered to pay full restitution and a \$600 special assessment. After completion of his jail sentence, WILLIAMS will be on federal supervised release for 36 months.

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